

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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SUBJECT: UNIDO-AFIFI VIEWS CONCERNING IDB-IX

1. WE LUNCHEd APRIL 11 WITH AFIFI (EGYPT), SENIOR ADVISER TO UNIDO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TO OBTAIN HIS VIEWS ON WHAT SECRETARIAT WOULD INTRODUCE AT IDB-IX. TONE OF DISCUSSION WAS AMIABILITY AND REASONABLENESS PERSONIFIED.

2. APOLOGIZING FOR LATENESS OF DISTRUBTUION OF 1976-77 PROGRAM BUDGET DOCUMENTATION AND UPCOMING (STILL BEING DRAFTED) SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT ID/B/155 PROPOSING FOLLOW-UP TO LIMA CONFERENCE, AFIFI SAID SECRETARIAT WOULD ASK FOR MODERATE ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION OF TWO PROGRAMS APPROVED AT LIMA-CONSULTATIONS AIMED AT INCREASING LDC SHARE OF GLOBAL INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION AND UNIT TO BACKSTOP UNIDO ACITIVITES TO ASSIST THE LEAST DEVELOPED, LAND-LOCKED AND ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (LIMA 2395 AND STATE 067142).

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3. RE CONSULTATIONS, AFIFI VOLUNTEERED HE HAD SHELVED AS FAR AS IDB-IX CONCERNED PROPOSAL ORIGINATING "ELSEWHERE IN THE SECRETARIAT" FOR EXTENSIVE AND EXPENSIVE NEW CONSULTATION MACHINERY. HE EXPLAINED THAT HIATUS BETWEEN LIMA AND IDB-IX TOO SHORT FOR DELEGATIONS TO BE ABLE CONSIDER SUCH PROPOSAL. INSTEAD, HE SAID, SECRETARIAT WOULD SUBMIT PROPOSAL FOR ADDITIONAL \$100,000 TO BE USED FOR ORGANIZATION OF CONSULTATIONS AT REGIONAL (PROBABLY AFRICA) LEVEL. TEXT OF PROPOSAL NOT YET DRAFTED (AFIFI INDICATED HE DRAFTING IT PERSONALLY) AND HE SOLICITED OUR SUGGESTIONS AS TO PHRASING. WE OUTLINED NATURE OF OUR "SENSITIVITIES" ON THIS TOPIC AND HE IMPLIED THESE WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

4. RE LEASE DEVELOPED, ETC., AFIFI NOTED RESOLUTION AS ADOPTED BY LIMA CONFERENCE, "REQUESTS SYG AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PURSUE THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO ESTABLISH AN OPERATIONAL UNIT WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF UNIDO FOR THE PURPOSES INDICATED IN THE PRESENT RESOLUTION". ACCORDINGLY, THE SECRETARIAT WILL PROPOSE NEW PB ITEM FOR "ONE-MAN UNIT" (IN AFIFI'S COORDINATION SECTION). AFIFI ACKNOWLEDGED OUR OPPOSITION TO FORMAL DIFFERENTIATION OF LAND-LOCKED AND ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, INDICATING HE INTENDED LIMIT SPECIAL UNIDO ACTIVITIES IN LATTER CATEGORIES ONLY TO COUNTRIES ACTUALLY AMONG LEAST DEVELOPED.

5. WE TOOK OCCASION TO SOUND AFIFI WHETHER SECRETARIAT MIGHT UNDERTAKE SOME INITIATIVE TO REPHRASE CONTENTIOUS ELEMENTS OF PARAS 12.13 AND 12.43 OF 1976-77 PROGRAM BUDGET (VIENNA 2978). AFIFI CITED VARIOUS PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE REASONS WHY THIS NOT FEASIBLE.

A. ON 12.13 HE ARGUED, INTER ALIA, THAT USE OF PHRASE "PRODUCER-PROCESSOR ASSOCIATIONS" RENDERED THIS SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT FROM "PRODUCER ASSOCIATIONS" AND SUGGESTED THAT IF INDUSTRIALIZED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTRIES CALL ATTENTION TO THIS SUBPARA, G-77 MIGHT SEEK TO HAVE WORD "PROCESSOR" DELETED-HIS ADVICE WAS NOT TO RAISE IT. (WOULD WELCOME DEPT'S TAKING THIS LINE INTO ACCOUNT IN PROVIDING GUIDANCE ON HANDLING OF THIS POINT.)

B. RE PARA 12.43, AFIFI READILY CONCEDED THIS ACTIVITY BADLY WORDED AND LOGICALLY MISTAKEN;

WHAT WAS INTENDED, HE SUGGESTED, WAS THE KIND OF ASSISTANCE TRADITIONALLY PROVIDED BY UNIDO'S INVESTMENT PROMOTION/SUB-CONTRACTING ACTIVITIES; "IF ASKED", THE SECRETARIAT WOULD CLARIFY THIS "FOR THE RECORD". (INASMUCH AS AFIFI WAS NOT PREPARED TO INITIATE A CORRECTION OF CLARIFICATION, ISSUE WILL PRESUMABLY HAVE TO BE BROUGHT ON FLOOR AT IDB-IX. EFFECT MAY BE TO TRIGGER G-77 INSISTENCE ON THIS LANGUAGE COUPLED WITH G-77 INTERPRETATION ADVERSE TO OUR-AFIFI'S ALLEGED-INTERPRETATION.)

6. ONLY LIGHT AFIFI SHED ON SECRETARIAT OR G-77 POSITIONS ON CONSIDERATION OF FOUR DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND SENEGALESE PROPOSAL REFERRED TO IDB-IX BY LIMA CONFERENCE WAS HIS PERSONAL ADVOCACY OF SOME FORM OF INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT INSURANCE SCHEME. (OUR OWN SOUNDINGS AMONG LOCAL G-77 MISSIONS INDICATE G-77 HAS NOT AT ALL FOCUSED ON SUBSTANCE OR TACTICS FOR IDB-IX, AND THAT THEY WILL EXTEMPORIZE THEIR POSITIONS AFTER IDB-IX CONVENES.)

7. WE ASKED AFIFI WHETHER SECRETARIAT HAD IN MIND PROPOSING ANYTHING TO (OR CONSULTING WITH) IDB-IX AS FOLLOW-UP TO LIMA RECOMMENDATIONS ON UNIDO'S TRANSFORMATION TO SPECIALIZED AGENCY. AFIFI CITED WORDING OF PARA 69 AND STATED IN HIS VIEW IDB HAD NO ROLE AT THIS STAGE; FIRST REFERENCE OF ISSUE TO INTER-GOVERNMENTAL BODY WOULD BE TO SUMMER SESSION OF ECOSOC, WHICH HE ASSUMED WOULD ONLY NOTE SYG-ED'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND PASS THEM ON TO 7TH GA SPECIAL SESSION. WE AFFIRMED THAT THIS ESSENTIALLY ALSO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE CORRECT PROCEDURE (SEE ALSO SEPTTEL ON SPECIALIZED AGENCY QUESTION). STIBRAVY
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